

## From Mystery to Fear to Belief to Religion to Science

Your admittance to fear was the truest words you spoke. You feared the end of life, end of existence, end of the universe. This natural expression is totally human. It is normal. Your feelings were real. As I said, “It’s okay.” We can deal with it. Science can deal with it.

Science and religion originated from the same place. Both wanted to understand life. Death. Hunger. The sun. The moon. Both observed. And both asked, “*Why?!?*”

All beliefs/religions began with African animism. It deduced that everything has a soul or a spirit; humans, water, the sun, insects, animals, dirt, etc. Science has determined this basic truth in the last few hundred years. Not a soul or spirit—because there isn’t any evidence to support this notion—but, atoms, DNA—energy. As Carl Sagan said, “We are star-children.” This statement is bolstered by fact not belief. But here is where they split.

Beliefs, or its descendent, religion, created stories. Humans have imagined myths, legends and superstitions stretching back eons. It was done to placate our fears and to explain nature. But this route ultimately avoids reality. Our emotions, imagination & lack of knowledge ran rampant.

Science tries to evaluate the natural world, too. Science makes mistakes because humans make mistakes. Science has no problems admitting when it’s wrong. It confronts our fears and accepts reality. We evolve. And our intellect thrives.

As an example: Just recently, North Americans experienced a solar eclipse. No one thought it was the end of the world, or that God was angry with us, or that a dragon was eating the sun. No one had such thoughts. Why? Because we’re evolving, changing. We know more. Evidence-based information can easily be researched & scrutinized by anyone.

I’ve concluded that science continually proves itself with evidence, while religion only requires blind faith.

You mentioned morality & suicide. First, morality. Morality has changed according to culture, time, “race”, gender, observation, region, etc. And suicide? Google “apoptosis.” It’s natural. It’s evolution. It’s programmed cell death. We choose how we live or die—to a point. Death is inevitable; life is a happy fluke. Energy eventually entropies.

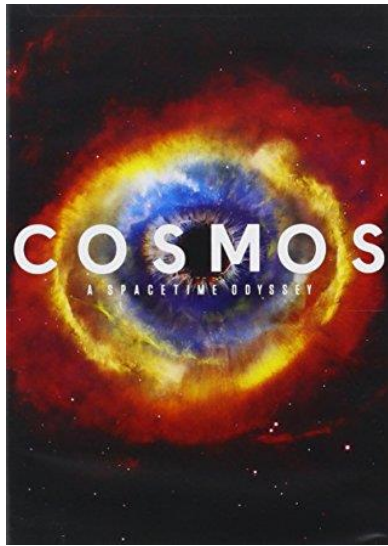
I’ve assembled books, documentaries, quizzes, and websites. I hope the material below challenges the way you think. Because you can think. We are all capable of critical thinking. Perhaps, if we did so, many of our problems would wonderfully decline.

Onward and upwards, my brother! By: A Critical Thinker Thur. Dec. 7, 2017

**PS:** You’ll find the URL under each title. All info was taken from the websites listed. Many of these titles can be found as free EPUBs, PDFs, MOBIs, or on YouTube.

^ **Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey.** *(It's a DVD from the Toronto Public Library.)*

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM3143632&R=3143632>



**Performers/Contributors:** [Tyson, Neil deGrasse](#)

**Year:** 2014, DVD, 4 videodiscs (553 min.): **Copies:** 15

**Summary/Review:** Explores how humans discovered the laws of nature and found the coordinates in space and time.

**Branches:** Agincourt Barbara Frum Bendale  
Bloor/Gladstone Elmbrook Park Flemingdon Park  
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^ **Where to Invade Next** *(It's a DVD from the Toronto Public Library.)*

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM3426596&R=3426596>



**Performers/Contributors:** [Moore, Michael, 1954 April 23-](#)

**Year:** 2016, DVD, 1 videodisc (120 min.): **Copies:** 24

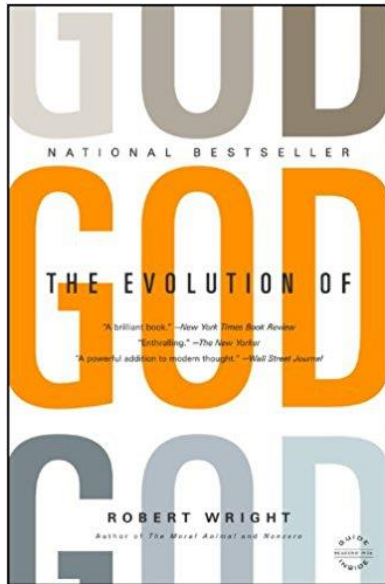
**Summary/Review:** Michael Moore visits a host of nations to learn how the U.S. could improve its own prospects. The creator of *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *Bowling for Columbine* is back with this hilarious and eye-opening call to arms. Turns out the solutions to America's most entrenched problems already exist in the world. They're just waiting to be co-opted.

**(NOTE: You can learn about FREE University Education of Slovenia (& in other countries) @ 40:45 to 47:25. Also, remember when we discussed your Homework--165 pages--was it? Check out the best education in the world—Finland--@ 30:35 to 40:25. No homework!)**

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**Call #:** 303.4 WHE

## ^ The Evolution of God *(It's a Book from the Toronto Public Library.)*

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM2504671&R=2504671>



By: [Wright, Robert, 1957-](#)

Year: 2009, Book, 567 pages    Copies: 29

**Summary:** In this sweeping, dazzling journey through history, Robert Wright unveils a discovery of crucial importance to the present moment: there is a pattern in the evolution Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and a "hidden code" in their scriptures. Through the prisms of archeology, theology, anthropology, and evolutionary psychology, Wright repeatedly overturns conventional wisdom to show how and why religion can strengthen the social order-even in an age of globalization-and explains why modern science is not only compatible with religion, but actively affirms the validity of the religious quest.

Vast in scope and thrilling in ambition, *The Evolution of God* brilliantly alters our understanding of God and where He came from-and where He and we are going next.

**Author Notes:** Robert Wright is the author of *The Moral Animal*, *Nonzero*, and *Three Scientists and Their Gods*. He has taught philosophy at Princeton University and religion at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently a senior fellow at the New America Foundation and editor in chief of Bloggingheads.TV.

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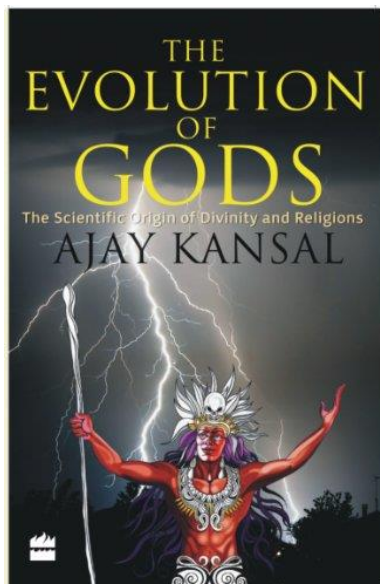
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## **^ The Evolution of Gods: The Scientific Origin of Divinity and Religions**

by [Ajay Kansal](#) (Author)    **(Book)**

<https://www.amazon.com/Evolution-Gods-Scientific-Divinity-Religions-ebook/dp/B008XK505O>

**Download:** <https://app.box.com/s/5sxy6wgl2m3oq6q6g6n1> (35.6 MB)



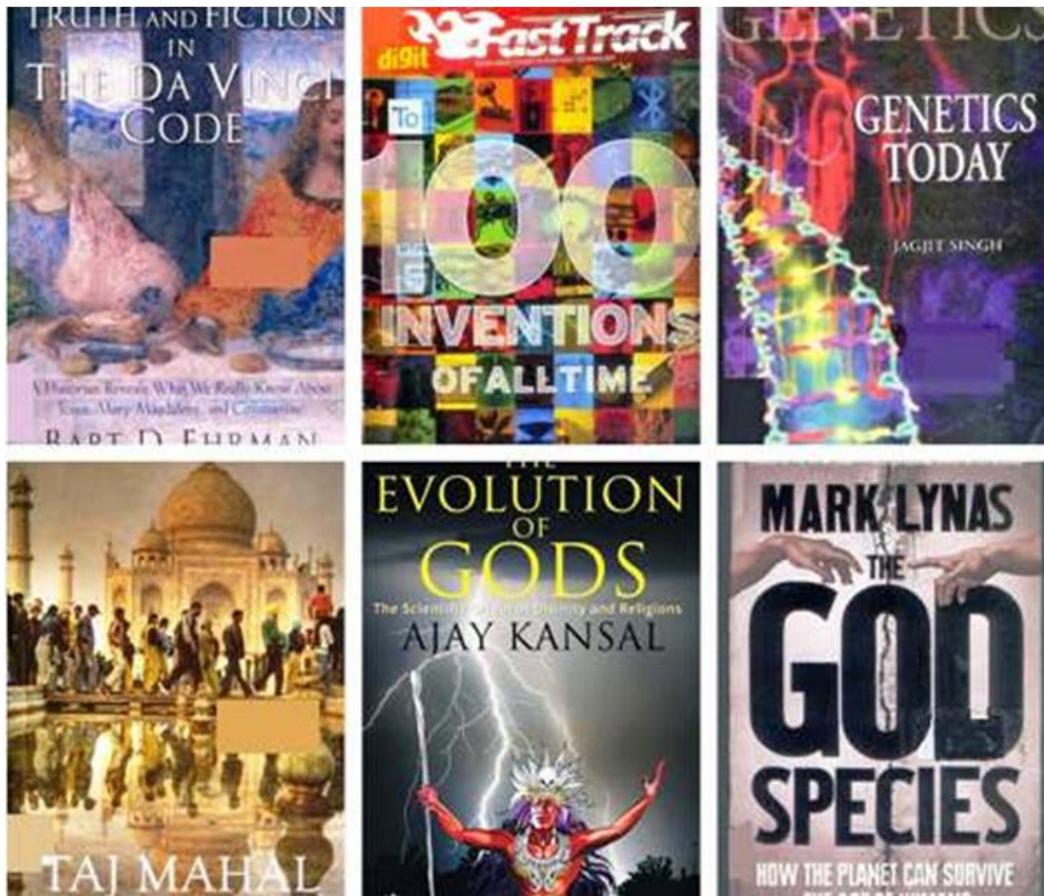
This book explains why, when and how humanity invented various religions and gods.

The process began around 100,000 years ago; during this epoch, many nomadic human bands, all over the world, invented primitive languages and began to decipher each happening around them. Whatever they could not comprehend, their chiefs or priests attributed to some unseen power.

At some point in time, we do not know exactly when it happened, humans invented an activity: they began to worship each seen or unseen power, which was beyond their control, but could either harm or help them.



<https://xsoft-tech.blogspot.com/2014/07/6-books-in-pdf-format.html>



This is a collection of 6 books scanned by me over a few weeks. All books are in PDF format with OCR, bookmarks, both covers & internal links from TOC:

1. *100 Inventions of All Time* by DIGIT magazine
2. *Genetics Today* by Jagjit Singh
3. *Taj Mahal* by Giles Tillotson
4. *The Evolution of Gods - The Scientific Origin of Divinity and Religions* by Ajay Kansal
5. *The God Species - How the Planet Can Survive the Age of Humans* by Mark Lynas
6. *Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code* by Bart D. Ehrman

DOWNLOAD PDFs @: <https://app.box.com/s/5sxy6wgl2m3oq6q6g6n1> (35.6 MB)

## ^ Neil deGrasse Tyson Explains Why He Believes Faith and Reason Are Irreconcilable

January 21, 2014 by [Hemant Mehta](#) [770 Comments](#) 9864

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2014/01/21/neil-degrasse-tyson-explains-why-he-believes-faith-and-reason-are-irreconcilable/>

On Friday's episode of "*Moyers & Company*," Neil deGrasse Tyson [spoke with host Bill Moyers](#) about his upcoming series "*Cosmos*," space, and science literacy — it's one of the most engaging discussions about the subjects you'll hear on television.



### ^ VIDEO 26:46

The most controversial part of the interview — though it really shouldn't be — involved Tyson explaining that he doesn't believe science and faith are compatible during a discussion of the Big Bang (16:46):

**Moyers:** Do you give people who make this case, that that was the beginning and that there had to be something that provoked the beginning, do you give them an A at least for trying to reconcile faith and reason?

**Tyson:** I don't think they're reconcilable.

**Moyers:** What do you mean?

**Tyson:** Well, so let me say that differently. All efforts that have been invested by brilliant people of the past have failed at that exercise. They just fail. And so I don't, the track record is so poor that going forward, I have essentially zero confidence, near zero confidence, that there will be fruitful things to emerge from the effort to reconcile them. So, for example, if you knew nothing about science, and you read, say, the Bible, the Old Testament, which in Genesis, is an account of nature, that's what that is, and I said to you, give me your description of the natural world based only on this, you would say the world was created in six days, and that stars are just little points of light much lesser than the sun. And that in fact, they can fall out of the sky, right, because that's what happens during the Revelation.

You know, one of the signs that the second coming, is that the stars will fall out of the sky and land on Earth. To even write that means you don't know what those things are. You have no concept of what the actual universe is. So everybody who tried to make proclamations about the physical universe based on Bible passages got the wrong answer.

So what happened was, when science discovers things, and you want to stay religious, or you want to continue to believe that the Bible is unerring, what you would do is you would say, “Well, let me go back to the Bible and reinterpret it.” Then you’d say things like, “Oh, well they didn’t really mean that literally. They meant that figuratively.”

So, this whole sort of reinterpretation of the, how figurative the poetic passages of the Bible are came after science showed that this is not how things unfolded. And so the educated religious people are perfectly fine with that. It’s the fundamentalists who want to say that the Bible is the literally, literal truth of God, that and want to see the Bible as a science textbook, who are knocking on the science doors of the schools, trying to put that content in the science room. Enlightened religious people are not behaving that way. So saying that science is cool, we’re good with that, and use the Bible for, to get your spiritual enlightenment and your emotional fulfillment.

Tyson went on to say he doesn’t care what people believe, as long as they don’t try to push their religious beliefs into science classrooms.

**Tyson:** ... The problem arises is if you have a religious philosophy that is not based on objective realities that you then want to put in a science classroom. Then I’m going to stand there and say, “No, I’m not going to allow you in the science classroom.” I’m not telling you what to think, I’m just telling you in the science class, “You’re not doing science. This is not science. Keep it out.” That’s where I, that’s when I stand up. Otherwise, go ahead. I’m not telling you how to think.

It’s really amazing how he can say something so controversial on the surface without denigrating religious people in the process. They can have their faith, he argues, but don’t think for a moment that faith can ever replace what science has discovered. Whenever religious goes up against science, religion loses. It may have its place in society, but that place has nothing to do with explaining the natural world

In all of this, Tyson’s atheism seems apparent, but he never comes right out and says it. It’s something he’s [tried to avoid](#) most of his public career — in part because he doesn’t want to get pigeonholed in any sort of belief. He doesn’t want to be known as an “atheist scientist.” He just wants to be known as a scientist. From a strategic perspective, it makes a lot of sense. Personally, though, I wish he would add himself to the roster of openly-atheist science communicators.

But if it means that a few more Christians will be willing to watch “*Cosmos*” and hear what he has to say, more power to him.

## ^ Atheists & Agnostics Know Religion Better Than Believers (YouTube)

6:01 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTQGdFQdDOK>

[Yourinquirer](#) 2.5K 14,491 views Published on Sep 28, 2010

Take the 15 question quiz @: <http://www.pewforum.org/quiz/u-s-religious-knowledge/>

*Maybe they're atheists & agnostics BECAUSE they know religion better, Stephen. You're putting the cart before the horse.*

Take a sample of the Quiz: <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2010/09/28/dont-know-much-about-religion-youre-not-alone-study-finds/?hpt=Sbin>



**FLASH BY NIGHT**  
coffee break entertainment 

## How Much Do You Know About Religion? (QUIZ)

<http://www.flashbynight.com/religionquiz/>

*In 2010, the Pew Research Center carried out a survey of religious knowledge using a 32-question quiz. The average member of the public scored 16 while, surprisingly, atheists and agnostics outperformed most religious groups with an average of 20.9. Jews and Mormons also scored 20.5 and 20.3 on average. Catholics scored 14.7 on average.*

*How much do YOU know about religion? Are you 'smarter than an atheist'?*

*Click below to take the quiz or to see the cheat sheet:*

[Take the test](#)

[See the answers](#)

## ^ World Religions Test 50 Questions | By Vcubero (QUIZ)

<https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=world-religions-test>



*This test assesses your knowledge of the five major world religions.*

[Start](#)



## ^ [Religion Quiz](#) / World Religions Multiple Choice (QUIZ)

Random [Religion](#) or [Clickable](#) Quiz

<https://www.sporcle.com/games/gazzso/religions-mc>

*Can you choose the correct answer to these questions on religion?*

By: [gazzso](#) Quiz Updated: Sep 18, 2016

## ^ God's God (YouTube)

9:50 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODetOE6cbbc>

[DarkMatter2525](#) 2,137,601 views Published on Feb 23, 2013

*God does have a creator, but it might not be who you think it is. Ironically, it was God who was intelligently designed - not us.*

A special thank you to GrapplingIgnorance and True, who both gave me suggestions when I had writer's block.

For more on the argument I used against God's omniscience, watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vauFcJAnnTY>

Sub to Noelplum99 for interesting arguments like that. He's worthwhile.

**(NOTE: You're gonna hear some bad language. Just giving you a head's up!)**

30,960 Comments

## ^ Where is the Graveyard of Dead Gods? (An Article)

June 21, 2013 by [Ed Brayton](#) [1 Comment](#)

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/dispatches/2013/06/21/where-is-the-graveyard-of-dead-gods/>

*So begins HL Mencken's brilliant essay "Memorial Service", first published in 1922 and republished in "A Mencken Chrestomathy." He compiles a very long list of all the gods once worshiped and now long dead and rarely remembered.*

## **Memorial Service** By: *HL Mencken*

**W**here is the grave-yard of dead gods? What lingering mourner waters their mounds? There was a day when Jupiter was the king of the gods, and any man who doubted his puissance was ipso facto a barbarian and an ignoramus. But where in all the world is there a man who worships Jupiter to-day? And what of Huitzilopochtli? In one year-and it is no more than five hundred years ago-50,000 youths and maidens were slain in sacrifice to him. Today, if he is remembered at all, it is only by some vagrant savage in the depths of the Mexican forest. Huitzilopochtli, like many other gods, had no human father; his mother was a virtuous widow; he was born of an apparently innocent flirtation that she carried on with the sun. When he frowned, his father, the sun, stood still. When he roared with rage, earthquakes engulfed whole cities. When he thirsted he was watered with 10,000 gallons of human blood. But today [in 1921] Huitzilopochtli is as magnificently forgotten as Allen G. Thurman. Once the peer of Allah, Buddha, and Wotan, he is now the peer of General Coxey, Richmond P. Hobson, Nan Petterson, Alton B. Parker, Adelina Patti, General Weyler, and Tom Sharkey.

**S**peaking of Huitzilopochtli recalls his brother, Tezcatilpoca. Tezcatilpoca was almost as powerful: He consumed 25,000 virgins a year. Lead me to his tomb: I would weep, and hang a couronne des perles. But who knows where it is? Or where the grave of Quitzalcontli is? Or Tlaloc? Or Chalchihuitlicue? Or Xiehtecutli? Or Centeotl, that sweet one? Or Tlazolteotl, the goddess of love? Or Mictlan? Or Ixtlilton? Or Omacatl? Or Yacatecutli? Or Mixcoatl? Or Xipe? Or all the host of Tzitzimitles? Where are their bones? Where is the willow on which they hung their harps? In what forlorn and unheard of hell do they await the resurrection morn? Who enjoys their residuary estates? Or that of Dis, whom Caesar found to be the chief god of the Celts? Or that of Tarves, the bull? Or that of Moccus, the pig? Or that of Epona, the mare? Or that of Mullo, the celestial jack-ass? There was a time when the Irish revered all these gods as violently as they now hate the English. But today even the drunkest Irishman laughs at them.

**B**ut they have company in oblivion: The hell of dead gods is as crowded as the Presbyterian hell for babies. Damona is there, and Esus, and Drunemeton, and Silvana, and Dervones, and Adsalluta, and Deva, and Belisama, and Axona, and Vintios, and Taranuous, and Sulis, and Cocidius, and Adsmerius, and Dumiatias, and Caletos, and Moccus, and Ollovidius, and Albiorix, and Leucitius, and Vitucadrus, and Ogmios, and Uxellimus, and Borvo, and Grannos, and Mogons. All mighty gods in their day, worshiped by millions, full of demands and impositions, able to bind and loose-all gods of the first class, not dilettanti. Men labored for generations to build vast temples to them-temples with stones as large as hay-wagons. The business of interpreting their

whims occupied thousands of priests, wizards, archdeacons, evangelists, haruspices, bishops, archbishops. To doubt them was to die, usually at the stake. Armies took to the field to defend them against infidels: Villages were burned, women and children were butchered, cattle were driven off. Yet in the end they all withered and died, and today there is none so poor to do them reverence. Worse, the very tombs in which they lie are lost, and so even a respectful stranger is debarred from paying them the slightest and politest homage.

**W**hat has become of Sutekh, once the high god of the whole Nile Valley? What has become of:

*Resheph Anath Ashtoreth El Nergal Nebo Ninib Melek Ahijah Isis Ptah  
Anubis Baal Astarte Hadad Addu Shalem Dagon Sharrab Yau Amon-Re Osiris  
Sebek Molech?*

**A**ll these were once gods of the highest eminence. Many of them are mentioned with fear and trembling in the Old Testament. They ranked, five or six thousand years ago, with Jahveh himself; the worst of them stood far higher than Thor. Yet they have all gone down the chute, and with them the following:

*Bilé Ler Arianrod Morrigu Govannon Gunfled Sökk-mimi Memetona Dagda  
Robigus Pluto Ops Meditrina Vesta Tilmun Ogyrvan Dea Dia Ceros Vaticanus  
Edulia Adeona Iuno Lucina Saturn Furrina Vediovis Consus Cronos Enki Engurra  
Belus Dimmer Mu-ul-lil Ubargisi Ubilulu Gasan lil U-dimmer-an-kia Enurestu U-  
sab-sib Kerridwen Pwyll Tammuz Venus Bau Mulu-hursang Anu Beltis Nusku  
U-Mersi Beltu Dumu-zi-abzu Kuski-banda Sin Abil Addu Apsu Dagan Elali Isum  
Mami Nin-man Zaraqû Suqamunu Zagaga Gwydion Manawyddan Nuada  
Argetlam Tagd Goibniu Odin Llaw Gyffes Lleu Ogma Mider Rigantona Marzin  
Mars Kaawanu Ni-zu Sahi Aa Allatu Jupiter Cunina Potina Statilinus Diana of  
Ephesus Nin-azu Lugal-Amarada Zer-panitu Merodach U-ki Dauke Gasan-abzu  
Elum U-Tin-dir-ki Marduk Nin-lil-la Nin Persephone Istar Lagas U-urugal  
Sirtumu Ea Nirig Nebo Samas Ma-banba-anna En-Mersi Amurru Assur Aku  
Qarradu Ura-gala Ueras*

**Y**ou may think I spoof. That I invent the names. I do not.

**A**sk the rector to lend you any good treatise on comparative religion: You will find them all listed. They were gods of the highest standing and dignity-gods of civilized peoples-worshiped and believed in by millions.

**A**ll were theoretically omnipotent, omniscient, and immortal.

**A**nd all are dead.

^ **Dead Gods** <http://www.graveyardofthegods.org/deadgods.html>



Are you ready to take the challenge of... the Graveyard of Dead Gods? Can you defend your belief in one god out of thousands and one church out of hundreds of thousands? Or do you have no more justification for your faith than all those other people you think are wrong?

*"I contend that we are both atheists. I just believe in one fewer god than you do. When you understand why you dismiss all the other possible gods, you will understand why I dismiss yours."*

[Where is the graveyard of dead gods?](#) - The original article by H.L. Mencken that inspired the title "Graveyard of Dead Gods".

[Everyone's a skeptic - about other religions](#)

[List of thousands of dead gods](#) - Why do you believe in your god and not these thousands of now-dead gods? Could it be simply because of the circumstances of your birth? Does the absolute truth depend on where you're born?

[Mainstream Christian churches in the US](#) - A short list of mainstream Christian churches in the US. There are about 330 000 Christian churches in the US, what makes you think yours is better than all these others?

[Major Faith Groups in the World](#) - About 4 000 faith groups listed on Adherents.com

^ **List of Thousands of Dead Gods-Article**

<http://www.graveyardofthegods.org/deadgods/listofgods.html>

***(NOTE: Check out other Holy Books & Muslim scientists below. If you like, you can do further research into these topics. Be PROUD of your scientific Muslim forebears. مَرَحِي Bravo!!)***

^ **List of World Religions and Founders, Religious Books, Place of Worship**

<http://www.quickgs.com/list-of-world-religions-religious-books-place-of-worship/>

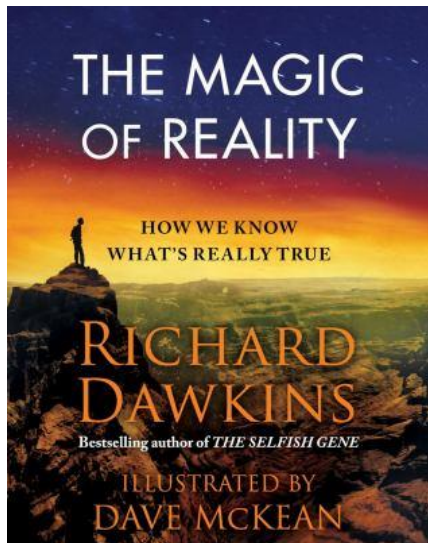
^ **List of Muslim scientists (WIKI)**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Muslim\\_scientists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Muslim_scientists)

## ^ The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM2778515&R=2778515>

***(It's a Book from the Toronto Public Library.)***



**By:** [Dawkins, Richard, 1941-](#)

**Contributors:** [McKean, Dave, illustrator.](#)

**Year:** 2011, Book, 271 pages: **Copies:** 49

**Summary:** Magic takes many forms. Supernatural magic is what our ancestors used in order to explain the world before they developed the scientific method. The ancient Egyptians explained the night by suggesting the goddess Nut swallowed the sun. The Vikings believed a rainbow was the gods' bridge to earth. The Japanese used to explain earthquakes by conjuring a gigantic catfish that carried the world on its back—earthquakes

occurred each time it flipped its tail. These are magical, extraordinary tales. But there is another kind of magic, and it lies in the exhilaration of discovering the real answers to these questions. It is the magic of reality—science.

Packed with clever thought experiments, dazzling illustrations and jaw-dropping facts, *The Magic of Reality* explains a stunningly wide range of natural phenomena. What is stuff made of? How old is the universe? Why do the continents look like disconnected pieces of a puzzle? What causes tsunamis? Why are there so many kinds of plants and animals? Who was the first man, or woman? This is a page-turning, graphic detective story that not only mines all the sciences for its clues but primes the reader to think like a scientist as well.

Richard Dawkins, the world's most famous evolutionary biologist and one of science education's most passionate advocates, has spent his career elucidating the wonders of science for adult readers. But now, in a dramatic departure, he has teamed up with acclaimed artist Dave McKean and used his unrivaled explanatory powers to share the magic of science with readers of all ages. This is a treasure trove for anyone who has ever wondered how the world works. Dawkins and McKean have created an illustrated guide to the secrets of our world—and the universe beyond—that will entertain and inform for years to come.



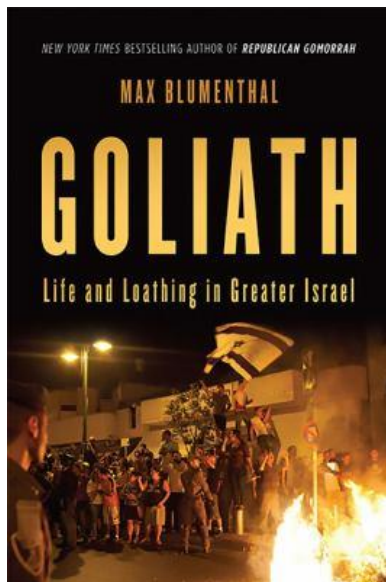
**Author Notes:** Richard Dawkins was educated at Oxford University and taught zoology at the University of California and Oxford University, holding the position of the Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science. He writes about such topics as DNA and genetic engineering, virtual reality, astronomy, and evolution. His books include *The Selfish Gene*, *The Extended Phenotype*, *The Blind Watchmaker*, *River out of Eden*, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, *The God Delusion*, and *An Appetite for Wonder: The Making of a Scientist*.

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## ^ Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM2988680&R=2988680>

***(It's a Book from the Toronto Public Library.)***



**By:** [Blumenthal, Max, 1977- author.](#)

**Year:** 2013, Book, xvi, 496 pages;      **Copies:** 9

**Summary/Review:** "In Goliath, New York Times bestselling author Max Blumenthal takes us on a journey through the badlands and high roads of Israel-Palestine, painting a startling portrait of Israeli society under the siege of increasingly authoritarian politics as the occupation of the Palestinians deepens. Beginning with the national elections carried out during Israel's war on Gaza in 2008-09, which brought into power the country's most right-wing government to date, Blumenthal tells the story of Israel in the wake of the collapse of the Oslo peace process.

Blumenthal interviews the demagogues and divas in their homes, in the Knesset, and in the watering holes where their young acolytes hang out, and speaks with those political leaders behind the organized assault on civil liberties. As his journey deepens, he painstakingly reports on the occupied Palestinians challenging schemes of demographic

separation through unarmed protest. He talks at length to the leaders and youth of Palestinian society inside Israel now targeted by security service dragnets and legislation suppressing their speech, and provides in-depth reporting on the small band of Jewish Israeli dissidents who have shaken off a conformist mindset that permeates the media, schools, and the military"—

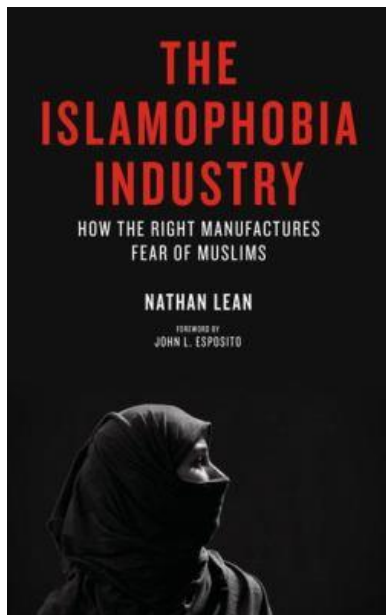
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**Call #:** 956.94054 BLU

**Author Notes:** Max Blumenthal is an award-winning journalist and bestselling author whose articles and video documentaries have appeared in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Daily Beast, The Nation, The Guardian, The Independent Film Channel, The Huffington Post, Salon.com, Al Jazeera English and many other publications. His book, *Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party*, was a New York Times and Los Angeles Times bestseller. He blogs at maxblumenthal.com

## ^ The Islamophobia Industry: How The Right Manufactures Fear of Muslims *(It's a Book from the Toronto Public Library.)*

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM2997250&R=2997250>



**By:** [Lean, Nathan Chapman](#). **Contributors:** [Esposito, John](#).

**Year:** 2012, Book, xiii, 222 pages; **Copies:** 2

**Summary:** *The Islamophobia Industry* is a disturbing account of the rising tide of Islamophobia sweeping through the United States and Europe. Nathan Lean takes us through a world of conservative bloggers, right-wing talk show hosts, evangelical religious leaders and politicians, all united in their quest to exhume the ghosts of 9/11 and convince their compatriots that Islam is the enemy. Lean uncovers their scare tactics, reveals their motives and exposes the ideologies that drive their propaganda machine. Situating Islamophobia within a long history of national and international phobias, *The Islamophobia*

*Industry* challenges the narrative of fear that has for too long dominated discussions about Muslims and Islam.

**Branches:** Toronto Reference Library Yorkville **Call #:** 305.697 LEA

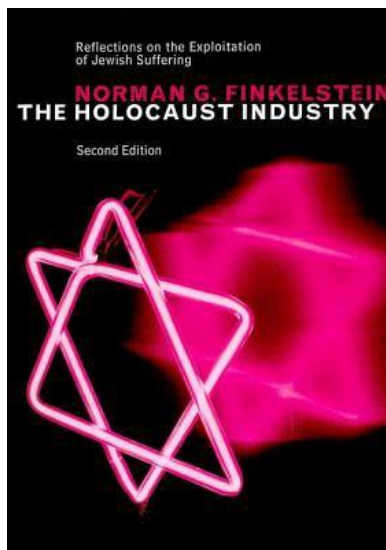
**Author Notes:** Nathan Lean is Editor-In-Chief of Asian Media and a contributing writer at PolicyMic. He is the co-author of *Iran, Israel, and the United States: Regime Security vs. Political Legitimacy* (2011).

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## ^ The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering (It's a Book from the Toronto Public Library.)

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM1094565&R=1094565>



by: [Finkelstein, Norman G.](#)

Year: 2003, Book, 286 pages; Copies: 5

**Summary:** In an iconoclastic and controversial study, Norman G. Finkelstein moves from an interrogation of the place the Holocaust has come to occupy in American culture to a disturbing examination of recent Holocaust compensation agreements. It was not until the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, when Israel's evident strength brought it into line with US foreign policy, that memory of the Holocaust began to acquire the exceptional prominence it enjoys today. Leaders of America's Jewish community were delighted that Israel was now deemed a major strategic asset and, Finkelstein contends, exploited the Holocaust to enhance this newfound status. Their subsequent interpretations of the tragedy are often at variance with actual

historical events and are employed to deflect any criticism of Israel and its supporters. Recalling Holocaust fraudsters such as Jerzy Kosinski and Benjamin Wilkomirski, as well as the demagogic constructions of writers like Daniel Goldhagen, Finkelstein contends that the main danger posed to the memory of Nazism's victims comes not from the distortions of Holocaust deniers but from prominent, self-proclaimed guardians of Holocaust memory. Drawing on a wealth of untapped sources, he exposes the double shakedown of European countries as well as legitimate Jewish claimants, and concludes that the Holocaust industry has become an outright extortion racket. Thoroughly researched and closely argued, *The Holocaust Industry* is all the more disturbing and powerful because the issues it deals with are so rarely discussed.

In a devastating new postscript to this best-selling book, Norman G. Finkelstein documents the Holocaust industry's scandalous cover-up of the blackmail of Swiss banks, and in a new appendix demolishes an influential apologia for the Holocaust industry.

**Branches:** Albert Campbell Barbara Frum Centennial Toronto Reference Library  
Wychwood **Call #:** 940.5318 FIN

**Author Notes:** Norman G. Finkelstein is the author of *A Nation on Trial* (with Ruth Bettina Birn), named a notable book for 1998 by the New York Times Book Review, and *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict*.

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## ^ The Real God: An Epiphany (YouTube)

7:00 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j8ZMMuu7MU>

[DarkMatter2525](#) 613K 1,576,462 views Published on Aug 11, 2011

Please consider supporting my work through Patreon here:

<http://www.patreon.com/DarkMatter2525>

*Because I was constantly being told that I'm rejecting God, and I knew that wasn't true, I decided to research rejection, which made me aware of its effects. My studies took me in a completely unexpected direction. The epiphany (pun intended) was rather shocking. The evidence indicates that the personal god is a manifestation of the ego, which explains a plethora of theistic tendencies, including their typical dislike of atheists, who theists subconsciously perceive to be rejecting a part of themselves. God is Tyler Durden; and the first rule of Jesus Club is you have to talk about Jesus Club. The second rule of Jesus Club is you have to talk about Jesus Club.*

**34,406 Comments**

## ^ Lawrence Krauss vs Hamza Tzortzis - Islam vs Atheism Debate

2:11:24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSwJuOPG4FI> (YouTube)

[iERA](#) 1,416,904 views Published on Mar 29, 2013

*The Big Debates: Islam or Atheism - Which Makes More Sense? Lawrence Krauss & Hamza Tzortzis*

Feel free to discuss and debate your viewpoint. Agree? Disagree? Comment at <http://thebigdebates.com/debates/islam-or-atheism-which-makes-more-sense/>

### **Islam or Atheism - Which Makes More Sense?**

This debate sees Professor Lawrence M. Krauss, renowned cosmologist and Hamza Andreas Tzortzis, author, lecturer and intellectual activist explore this very interesting and thought provoking topic.

### **Highlights:**

[00:00:24](#): Introduction - Timothy Yusuf Chambers

[00:06:30](#): Opening Remarks - Hamza Tzortzis [00:32:02](#): Opening Remarks – L. Krauss

[00:59:33](#): Rebuttal - Hamza Tzortzis [01:14:28](#): Rebuttal - Lawrence Krauss



[01:22:43](#): Summary Discussion      [01:42:07](#): Question & Answer Session

[02:06:00](#): Closing Remarks - Lawrence Krauss      [02:07:50](#): Closing Remarks – H. Tzortzis

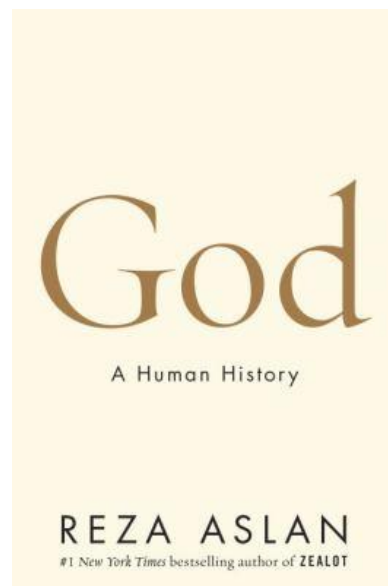
**PLEASE NOTE:** You are about to see unedited footage of an intellectual debate where philosophical and theoretical positions will be discussed. Any of the views expressed by the speakers do not necessarily represent the views of iERA or The Big Debates project.

For more information about the logical and rational foundations of Islam visit

<http://www.OneReason.org>      **19,052 Comments**

## ^ **God: A Human History**      *(It's a Book from the Toronto Public Library.)*

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM3565897&R=3565897>



By: [Aslan, Reza, author.](#)

Year: 2017, Book, 320 pages.      Copies: 87

**Summary:** *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER \* The bestselling author of Zealot and host of Believer explores humanity's quest to make sense of the divine in this concise and fascinating history of our understanding of God.*

In Zealot, Reza Aslan replaced the staid, well-worn portrayal of Jesus of Nazareth with a startling new image of the man in all his contradictions. In his new book, Aslan takes on a subject even more immense: God, writ large.

In layered prose and with thoughtful, accessible scholarship, Aslan narrates the history of religion as a remarkably cohesive attempt to understand the divine by giving it human traits and emotions. According to Aslan, this innate desire to humanize God is hardwired in our brains, making it a central feature of nearly every religious tradition. As Aslan writes, "Whether we are aware of it or not, and regardless of whether we're believers or not, what the vast majority of us think about when we think about God is a divine version of ourselves."

But this projection is not without consequences. We bestow upon God not just all that is good in human nature--our compassion, our thirst for justice--but all that is bad in it: our greed, our bigotry, our penchant for violence. All these qualities inform our religions, cultures, and governments.

More than just a history of our understanding of God, this book is an attempt to get to the root of this humanizing impulse in order to develop a more universal spirituality. Whether you believe in one God, many gods, or no god at all, *God: A Human History* will challenge the way you think about the divine and its role in our everyday lives.

### **Praise for “God”**

"Breathtaking in its scope and controversial in its claims, *God: A Human History* shows how humans from time immemorial have made God in their own image, and argues that they should now stop. Writing with all the verve and brilliance we have come to expect from his pen, Reza Aslan has once more produced a book that will prompt reflection and shatter assumptions."--*Bart D. Ehrman, author of How Jesus Became God*

"Reza Aslan offers so much to relish in his excellent 'human history' of God. In tracing the commonalities that unite religions, Aslan makes truly challenging arguments that believers in many traditions will want to mull over, and to explore further. This rewarding book is very ambitious in its scope, and it is thoroughly grounded in an impressive body of reading and research."--*Philip Jenkins, author of Crucible of Faith*

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^ **The Scientific Method** (A Muslim is the father of this thinking. [مَرْحَى](#) Bravo!!)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific\\_method](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method)

[Ibn al-Haytham](#) (*Alhazen*), 965–1039 [Iraq](#). A polymath, considered by some to be the father of modern scientific [methodology](#), due to his emphasis on experimental data and [reproducibility](#) of its results.[\[16\]\[17\]](#)

Graphic from: <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science-fair/steps-of-the-scientific-method>

